

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph on page 1, lines 20 to 25 as follows:

The digitization of information ~~is~~ has been increasing in recent years. Since digitized information (hereafter referred to as "digital content") not only is relatively easy to handle but also does not degrade in quality with time, information such as audio and video data is becoming more and more digitized.

Please amend the paragraph on page 4, line 8 to page 5, line 2 as follows:

If copying of digital content transmitted via a transmission line is permitted, the user can perform time shifting, i.e., the user can record the digital content to a recording medium for later reproduction, or the user can record the digital content to a recording medium such as an HDD (hard disk drive) and at the same time reproduce it. However, in the case of digital content marked as "Copy Never", once the user breaks off viewing the digital content to go to the bathroom or to answer the telephone or ~~bell~~ doorbell, he or she cannot view the missed part unless the digital content is rebroadcast. Many movie films run for about two hours, and some feature length films even run for more than four hours. Also, commercial digital broadcasting and the like are usually commercial-free. Therefore, to view an entire movie film or the like which is marked as "Copy Never", the user cannot answer the phone or ~~bell~~ doorbell and cannot even go to the bathroom for the running time of the movie film that lasts two to four hours. This causes a great deal of inconvenience to the user.

Please amend the paragraph on page 15, lines 1 to 4 as follows:

Here, when the data nullification device does not have ~~an~~ enough processing capacity, the

nullifying unit may destroy only the part of the data block necessary to utilize the remaining parts of the data block.

Please amend the paragraph on page 15, lines 5 to 7 as follows:

With this construction, when there is not ~~an~~ enough processing capacity, only the part of the data block which is needed to utilize the other parts is destroyed.

Please amend the paragraph on page 15, line 23 to page 16, line 1 as follows:

With this construction, when there is ~~an~~ enough processing capacity, remaining parts of data blocks which were not destroyed by the nullifying unit are all destroyed.

Please amend the paragraph on page 25, lines 4 to 14 as follows:

Here, the target data may be data which is continuously transmitted from an external device and recorded on the recording medium, wherein the data nullification method further ~~including~~ includes the step of: receiving data from the external device, and wherein having set the received data as a new data block, the nullifying step writes the new data block to a recording area on the recording medium that stores a data block which is judged as needing to be nullified, to nullify the recorded data block and at the same time record the new data block.

Please amend the paragraph on page 38, line 24 to page 39, line 10 as follows:

The nullification judging unit 111 operates as follows. When digital content is received and recorded despite its copy prohibition status, the nullification judging unit ~~112~~ 111 judges, for each pair of encrypted data block and encrypted decryption key recorded on the recording

medium, whether the pair should be nullified, based on a specific condition. In the present example, the nullification judging unit 111 judges, for each pair of encrypted data block corresponding to the broadcast time period of 10 minutes and encrypted unique key which are recorded on the HDD 905, whether the pair should be nullified.

Please amend the paragraph on page 40, lines 1 to 5 as follows:

The processing capacity judging unit 112 judges whether the device 100 has ~~an~~ enough processing capacity to destroy all parts of the pair of encrypted data block and encrypted decryption key which is judged as needing to be nullified.

Please amend the paragraph on page 42, lines 14 to 20 as follows:

As an alternative, the sequential nullifying unit 113 may destroy all parts of the pair when the processing capacity judging unit 112 judges that there is ~~an~~ enough processing capacity, and destroy only the important part of the pair when the processing capacity judging unit 112 judges that there is not ~~an~~ enough processing capacity.

Please amend the paragraph on page 42, line 21 to page 43, line 3 as follows:

The total nullifying unit 114 destroys all remaining parts of the pairs of encrypted data blocks and encrypted decryption keys which have not been destroyed by the sequential nullifying unit 113, when there is ~~an~~ enough processing capacity. Also, when the user indicates to stop time shifting, the total nullifying unit 114 destroys all remaining parts which have not been destroyed.